is not a fixed quantification, it is a policy approach dictated by and determined in the context of our security environment.

ISI Activities in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East

4152. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) agency is fomenting external violence in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East;

(b) if so, whether ISI is working through dissident groups with bases in Bangladesh;

(c) whether ISI agents in Bangladesh are encouraging, training and arming some of the militants of the United Liberation Front of Assam and other groups; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government are aware that Pakistan's ISI has been misusing the territory of Bangladesh for their anti-India activities. According to recently available information, the ULFA leadership maintains close touch with some officials of the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka.

Government has been regularly taking up security related issues with the Government of Bangladesh through diplomatic channels and institutional mechanisms that exist between the two countries. The Government of Bangladesh has stated that they will not allow the use of Bangladeshi territory for activities, which are prejudicial to the security interests of India.

International Consensus Against the Menace of Terrorism

4153. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are of the view that there is an urgent need to evolve an international consensus against the menace of terrorism which posed a great threat to democratic society;

(b) If so, whether any measures have been taken to evolve international consensus against this danger to peace, stability and democracy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Yes Sir. Government is fully aware of the urgent need to evolve an international consensus against the menace of terrorism. India has been playing a leading role in this respect and it is because of India's initiative, with support from other like-minded countries who are also concerned about the menace of terrorism, that the 54th UN General Assembly had adopted a resolution strongly condemnatory of international terrorism.

(b) and (c) India has also tabled a proposal for adoption of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and, during the 54th UN General Assembly, it was decided that discussions on India's draft would commence from September 2000 onwards. The draft Convention proposed by India is an important legislative instrument which seeks to overcome shortcoming in existing international Conventions against terrorism which only address specific categories of terrorist acts or terrorist acts committed with specific weapons.

India's Foreign Policy after Clinton's visit

4154. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any significant changes in Indo-Russia and Indo-China relationships following the visit of the U.S. President recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken to assure the Super-Powers that despite the new orientation of the American policy towards India, the policy of neutrality and non-alignment world continue to be the basic tenet of India's foreign policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) Strengthening of our ties with the United States is neither directed against any country nor is it at the expense of any of our other important relationships. Government would continue to nurture our ties with all friendly countries, including the Russian Federation and China. We will continue to pursue our independent foreign policy guided solely by our national interests and global friendship.